

Sub 17
D1
14 (Twice Amended). A rubber composition comprising (I) 100 parts by weight of a block copolymer having at least two mutually incompatible blocks (a) and (b) and composed of at least one conjugated diene monomer and, optionally, at least one aromatic vinyl monomer and (II) 5 to 200 parts by weight of (i) a polymer (α) compatible with the block (a), (ii) a polymer (β) compatible with the block (b) or (iii) a mixture of the polymer (α) and the polymer (β), wherein the weight average molecular weights of the polymers (α) and (β) satisfy the following equations (III) and (IV):

$$Mw(\alpha) / Mw(a) \leq 1.2 \quad (III)$$

$$Mw(\beta) / Mw(b) \leq 1.2 \quad (IV)$$

wherein $Mw(\alpha)$: weight average molecular weight of polymer (α),

$Mw(\beta)$: weight average molecular weight of polymer (β),

$Mw(a)$: weight average molecular weight of block (a) of block copolymer, and

$Mw(b)$: weight average molecular weight of block (b) of block copolymer.

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 1-17 are rejected. Claims 1-7 are cancelled. Claim 14 is amended merely to correct previous typographical errors. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application, for instance in the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter is added. Claims 8-17 are submitted for further consideration in view of the below remarks. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections.